

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): A method to recover one or more fluorescent cells from a tissue, which method comprises ~~microsurgically~~ mechanically separating one or more living cells that produce a fluorescent protein from ~~a location in the~~ surrounding tissue containing from any cells in the tissue that do not produce said first fluorescent protein,

thereby recovering one or more living cells that produce said first fluorescent protein[[,]] separate from any cells that do not produce said first fluorescent protein.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the cells that produce the first fluorescent protein are tumor cells.

3-4. (canceled)

5. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the tumor cells are metastatic tumor cells of the lung, bone, lymph node or liver.

6. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the first fluorescent protein is a green fluorescent protein or a red fluorescent protein.

7. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more living cells recovered consists of a single living cell.

8. (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein said cells that produce said first fluorescent protein are present in an immunocompromised laboratory animal.

9. (previously presented): The method of claim 8, which further comprises transferring cells that produce said first fluorescent protein to at least one additional immunocompromised animal.

10. (original): The method of claim 1, which further comprises subjecting the recovered one or more living cells that produce said first fluorescent protein to gene expression analysis.

11. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said cells contained in the tissue that do not produce the first fluorescent protein produce a second fluorescent protein that emits a different wavelength from the first fluorescent protein.